



Childhood Connections

January 4, 2022

**Happy New Year!**



The Office of Childhood is especially excited about this year as much of the work we started in the past few years will come to fruition in 2023, including new data systems, partnerships, and professional development opportunities.

New in 2023! We are adding resources and information to support the childhood workforce, including retention grants, new trainings, and a social media campaign focusing on recruitment. An important part of our jobs is to support those working directly with families and children, and we want to recognize you!

Throughout 2023, this newsletter will spotlight professionals working in childhood programs, such as home visiting, early intervention, child care, Head Start, preschool, afterschool, as well as high school and higher education.

To kick off our first edition, watch a collection of early childhood professionals talking about why they love their jobs at: [Early Childhood Careers](#).

Until next month,  
Pam Thomas  
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

#### **NEW LINK! OOC Monthly Webinar**

DESE is replacing the service used for webinars. The *Livestream* service that we use will end March 11, 2023. After that date, you will only be able to view webinars streamed on the new platform for *Vimeo*.

Starting in January 2023, the monthly webinars for the Office of Childhood will be held on Vimeo. Please update your bookmarked links for the monthly stakeholder webinar to [this link](#).

#### **NEW! In-Person Child Care Licensing Orientation**

Beginning January 1, 2023, the Licensing Orientation is available in-person at all Child Care Compliance (CCC) regional offices. Attending in-



#### **REMINDER! Early Childhood State Advisory Council (ECSAC) Meeting**

The next meeting of the ECSAC will be on Friday, January 20, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. Read more about the council meeting and how guests can listen live on the [ECSAC webpage](#).

person allows you the opportunity to meet CCC staff, receive answers to questions, and network with other potential providers. Contact your nearest [CCC office](#) for available dates and times.

### **REMINDER! Complete the Comprehensive Background Screening Process**

For licensed and regulated programs and all programs that accept child care subsidy:

Did you know that the below individuals are required to complete the comprehensive background screening process prior to their employment or presence in a child care facility or home?

- Child Care Providers
- Persons employed by the child care provider for compensation, including contract employees or self-employed individuals
- Individuals or volunteers whose activities involve the care or supervision of children for a child care provider or unsupervised access to children who are cared for or supervised by a child care provider
- Individuals residing in a family child care home who are eighteen years or older or individuals under the age of eighteen who have been certified as an adult for the commission of an offense

Contact your [Regional Office for Child Care Compliance](#) with questions.

### **REMINDER! Missouri Youth Development Credential Scholarship Project**

The Missouri AfterSchool Network (MASN) can help you continue your training and education at no cost to you! If you are passionate about providing children and youth quality programming and care, let MASN assist you in turning your passion into a credential in youth development.

The [Youth Development Credential \(YDC\) Scholarship Project](#) provides one-on-one support through the YDC process, pays for your CypherWorx access (with over 120 hours of afterschool and youth development-specific training available), the associated assessment fees, and provides \$200 for earning your YDC.

### **NEW! Child Care Relief Funds Phone Number**

OOC is pleased to share the new phone number for child care relief funds, 573-415-8951. Please call this number if you have questions about your child care relief funds application or the online system, ProMO. You can also continue to email us at [ChildCareRelief@dese.mo.gov](mailto:ChildCareRelief@dese.mo.gov).

### **RESOURCE! Every Kick Counts!**

Count the Kicks is a resource from the [Department of Health and Senior Services](#) with free materials for any pregnant mom in Missouri. Paying attention to their baby's movements helps expectant parents get to know what is normal and speak up if they notice a change. One in every 169 pregnancies ends in stillbirth in the U.S., with a rate two times higher for Black expectant moms. Learn more about monitoring baby's well – being at [Count the Kicks](#).

### **REMINDER! Conference on the Young Years**

Make plans to join us for the 50th annual Conference on the Young Years (CYY) hosted by the Missouri Department of Elementary and

If you are 18 years or older, have a high school diploma or GED, and work in a Missouri program with a DVN, you are eligible for a scholarship! Please contact Ashlee Liska, YDC Coordinator, at [liskaa@missouri.edu](mailto:liskaa@missouri.edu) with questions.

## REMINDER! Start-up Funding Opportunities

Two funding opportunities for new child care programs are now open:

- [Start-up For Essential Workers](#) - This funding opportunity allows for start-up of a new, licensed facility to increase the number of children of essential workers served in rural communities.
- [Start-up for Small Businesses](#) - This funding opportunity allows for start-up of a new, licensed facility to serve children of small business employees in rural communities.

These grants are made possible with Child Care American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Discretionary funds. To apply, the child care provider must provide a completed Application for License to Operate a Child Care Facility, a program description of how the relief funds will be used, and at least one letter of support.

- For more details about timelines and requirements, review the Instructions and Terms & Conditions for each application.
- View the [Start-Up A New Child Care Program Webinar](#) from the Missouri Chamber of Commerce for more information on these funding opportunities.
- The deadline to apply is **January 31, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.**

## UPDATE! Child Care Relief Funds

The first round of applications for Retention of Child Care Staff, Paycheck Protection Program, and Annual Training Costs closed on November 30, 2022.

Reminders for applicants:

- Visit the [Child Care Relief Funds webpage](#) and click on the application type to review the Terms & Conditions or check on the status of your application.

Secondary Education, Office of Childhood. Join us on March 9-11, 2023, at Tan-Tar-A Conference Center in Osage Beach, MO, for three days of professional development. Sessions will be specifically geared for early educators, child care providers, home visitors, administrators, and those who support the work in early education. Registration will open soon! For more information visit the [CYY webpage](#).

## Evidence-Based Practices for Early Intervention

Early intervention professionals can achieve positive outcomes for children and families by implementing evidence-based practices with fidelity. There are several national organizations that have information early intervention providers can use every day. For more information, visit the [First Steps webpage](#).

## RESOURCE! Early Language and reading Skills

Did you know that a child's language and reading skills start developing at birth? Check out [this resource](#) from Zero to Three for more information on how to support language and

- Average processing time for these applications is approximately 3 weeks. If your application is missing information, it will take longer to process your application. A reminder that state holidays are not counted in the number of business days.
- Watch your email for any questions or requested documentation pertaining to your applications. Please respond quickly! Lack of a prompt response to these requests will result in delayed processing.

literacy skills for children 0-12 months.

### REMINDER! Commenting on Inspection Reports

Child care directors, owners, and family home providers can comment on any violations cited on an inspection report or complaint investigation. Each report has a 10-day comment period before being released to the department's website. For more information on how to complete this process, watch the [Child Care Portal Training](#).

### RESOURCE! Training for Afterschool Programs

If you are looking to start a new afterschool program, or are in the early stages of running an afterschool program, we have a fantastic training and a long-term resource for you!



Beyond The Bell Toolkit was developed by the American Institutes for Research. The online Toolkit is both a guide and a comprehensive set of practical tools designed to help program leaders and their staff create and sustain high-quality, effective afterschool and expanded learning programs.

With 96 tools, the Toolkit covers everything from program start-up to hiring staff, program planning, funding options, community partnerships, and much, much more! This virtual training will help you understand what the Toolkit offers and

how to use its contents to the benefit of your program. If you have questions, please contact [Brad Lademann](#).

What: Beyond The Bell Toolkit Training

Date: Tuesday, January 24

Time: 9:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Where: Virtual

[Register here](#)

## **RESOURCE! Child Care Health Consultation**

The Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) Program provides the following services:

- Health and Safety Consultation with child care providers on health and safety issues in the child care setting.
- Health Issue Trainings (Clock Hour Trainings) for child care providers at little to no cost for them, to assist them in meeting annual training requirements, and to increase their knowledge on a wide variety of health and safety topics. This includes CPR/First Aid at many LPHAs.
- Health Promotions for children in child care to provide education on health and safety topics delivered with fun, developmentally appropriate, and engaging presentations.

Families are welcomed and encouraged to attend any CCHC Program service. Learn more about these services on the [CCHC Program webpage](#). You can also contact the health department that serves your area, or reach out to [CCHCProgram@dese.mo.gov](mailto:CCHCProgram@dese.mo.gov).

## **Spotlight on Success**

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.





Photo Credit: Courier-Post, Hannibal, MO

This month's Spotlight on Success features Grow & Learn Daycare in Hannibal. Jennifer Miller worked with the Marion County Commissioners to receive a grant to build a third child care center in her community. Miller said, "We knew there was a need but with COVID, times are hard, and we needed to help the community." Community members donated time, construction materials, and playground equipment for the new center. Miller's program opened August 2022, which created 28 new spots for children to attend the child care program. Watch [this interview](#) (2 minutes) with the local television station WGEM in summer 2022 to learn more about how Grow & Learn is partnering with their community.

### Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A recording and the PowerPoint

slides from the [November webinar](#) is available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information. You can view archived webinars here:

- [October 2022](#)
- [September 2022](#)
- [August 2022](#)
- [July 2022](#)
- [June 2022](#)
- [May 2022](#)

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

### PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on January 24, 2023, from noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser. Do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate!

### Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

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